

THE RIO N

# THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER I

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## COFFEE CULTURE IN BRAZIL

The December number of *Scribner's Magazine* contains a very interesting article on "Coffee Culture in Brazil," by Mr. Herbert H. Smith. The writer visited the coffee-growing districts of this province one year ago for the purpose of studying the question; and although he did not enter so fully into the subject as might be wished, he has nevertheless made many interesting and instructive observations. He was accompanied by Mr. Bernard Wiegand, the well known young artist of this city, who contributed several finely-drawn sketches to the article. After describing a coffee plantation near Entre Rios, which they visited, Mr. Smith discusses some of the general features of the subject as follows:

All through the provinces of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo are scattered great plantations like this of Sr. S.; some, indeed, are even larger, embracing a million trees or more, and employing many hundred slaves. Small plantations are numerous; but many of them are deeply in debt, and their success is altogether problematical. A vast share of the profits of coffee-planting is absorbed by the large proprietors, who, with two or three hundred slaves and scores of labor-saving machines, can easily outstrip their poorer neighbors. The present financial system of Brazil encourages the rich planter and retards the poor one. There is no land-tax; the best coffee-lands are all taken up by capitalists who hold them for years uncultivated. Eventually, with the extension of internal communication and the increased demand for planting-grounds, they secure enormous profits. The ground held by Sr. S.—was purchased twenty-five years ago, at the rate of \$10 per acre; the portion that still remains as forest is now worth at least \$75 per acre, in the open market.

An American can better comprehend these evils, by reflecting upon the results which a similar system would have brought to the United States. Suppose that no land-tax had been imposed in our western territories; the whole country would have been bought up by speculators; purchasers for a few cents or dollars an acre would have held hundreds of square miles; the land would have risen to a fictitious value, a few rich men would have acquired enormous fortunes, and immigrants would have been kept out by the high prices, and the difficulty of obtaining farms. Immense tracts would still be lying idle, and instead of controlling the grain trade of the world, the United States might now be buying of other countries. Such results would only be the legitimate outgrowth of a system by which land, ever increasing in value, could be held without limit or restriction.

So Carl I reason as we ride back to Entre Rios in Sr. S.'s great traveling carriage. We admire the enterprise and keenness of our host; we would be ungrateful if we did not acknowledge his ready hospitality and kindness. None the less he is growing richer by the force of unjust laws and unrighteous tyrannical institutions; witness the neglected grounds of his poorer neighbors and the smileless faces of his slaves.

Entre Rios is on a branch of the Dom Pedro II railway, where the latter meets the União e Indústria road. From its situation, the little country town promises to become a thriving inland city, the metropolis of this rich coffee region. The hills around are covered with plantations, each with its white walled *fazenda*, like a castle; odd contrasts to these are the jaunty, modern-looking railroad station and the attendant hotel, which might be a country tavern in the United States. Mule trains come to discharge their cargoes at the station; bags of coffee are piled on the platforms and cars are being loaded with them; a store-house near by is half filled with coffee, a waiting shipment. From the titled gentleman who passes you, to the dapper landlord, and the poorest day laborer, everybody in Entre Rios is dependent on coffee; the streets and buildings are fragrant with coffee; people drink coffee at the restaurant and quote coffee prices; sell coffee, buy it, plant it, gather it, live and labor with very little thought beyond coffee and the golden stores it will bring into their purses. The railroad was built to carry away the coffee; that is its main business, almost its only income, for of other freight there is very little; there are not many passengers, and of them ninety per cent are coffee planters or coffee traders.

The smooth, well-built route passes up the picturesque valley by coffee plantations everywhere, until it joins the main line from São Paulo to Rio. Then we wind up the mountains, passing through a score of tun-

nels, clinging to the sides of giddy precipices, peering up cavern-like valleys, dashing by forests so wild and luxuriant that it almost rivals that of the Amazonas. The brown guinea rises above us in strange peaks, mountains of goody size, Itatiaia, the highest of all, is capped with clouds; its summit is almost ten thousand feet above the sea, so that snow is sometimes found there, and palms cannot grow among the rocks.

The mountains are grand and picturesque all description; the railroad, too, merits all the praises that have been lavished on its construction, for it is a triumph of engineering and workmanship. In fact one who travels over the road is very apt to let his admiration run away with his judgment. For a moment let us consider the road aside from the mountains and tunnels, on the subject of bare utility.

The Dom Pedro II railroad is the largest and, with perhaps one exception, the most important in Brazil. The total length of the main line is 365 miles, and extensions are made almost every year. The road was commenced under the management of an incorporated company, interest of 7 per cent on the capital stock being guaranteed by the government. But in building the first portion of the road, it was necessary to cross the mountain near Rio, and so difficult and expensive was the work, that by the time one hundred miles were completed, the capital was entirely exhausted. In 1865, the government bought the road of the stockholders, and it has since been built and run as a branch of the imperial service. The road, as we have seen, is finely constructed; it is regular and safe; the stations and store-houses are well built and tasteful; the coaches are comfortable and the ordinary traveler, at least, has no fault to find with the officials. On the invested capital of rathe more than \$40,000,000, the government realizes an average income of five and one-half per cent yearly. So far the result is good; the road is well managed, and is a source of actual gain to the government. Let us see if the practical results to the people are equally good.

Coming down about ninety miles from Entre Rios, we paid 9,000 réis each for our tickets, say four dollars by existing exchange. This is a high—but not an exorbitant rate; second-class tickets are just one-half as much, and "excursion tickets," good for both ways, can be had at a reduced price. Our light satchels cost us nothing, of course; but if we had had trunks, even small ones, we should have had to pay as much for them as for ourselves. A fellow-passenger brought down five goats from Entre Rios—9,000 réis he paid for himself, and 9,000 réis for every one of the goats.

The regular tariff on coffee from Entre Rios to Rio is 2,000 réis—about 35 cents per sack of 60 kilograms. Corresponding rates are charged from more distant places, and on branch roads. From certain portions of São Paulo, every sack of coffee that reaches Rio or Santos must pay four dollars, or about one-third of the actual value in the Rio markets. The regular freight charges from Rio to New York vary from twenty to seventy-five cents per sack.

Portions of São Paulo and Minas Gerais are well fitted for growing corn and even wheat, and it has often been suggested that these districts would supply Rio with bread-stuffs. But if São Paulo grain or flour were brought to Rio by railroad, it could never compete with American produce; it is a demonstrable fact that it could be undersold by California grain, brought by way of the Pacific Railroad to New York, and thence by sailing vessels to Rio.

The freight rates on the Dom Pedro II railroad are cheaper by one-third than those on any other railroad in Brazil. Only three or four lines are paying a reasonable percentage on their invested capitals, and many would have to be abandoned altogether but for the government guarantee of seven per cent annually. Of course, these roads are a heavy drain on the government, and hence on the country, and the high freights neutralize any commensurate gain which might accrue to the districts through which they pass. Even the Dom Pedro II line is a doubtful advantage. Plans have more than once been discussed for bringing coffee to Rio by mule trains, and it is averred that this could be done at a lower rate than that demanded by the railroad.

Brazilians are crying out against these excessive tariffs, but the remedy is not apparent. No public or private railroad can afford to carry freight at a rate that involves a dead loss, or leaves no margin for profits. Most of these roads were built with the idea of "opening up," or "developing" this region; that is, the railroads were expected to bring prosperity to the country; but it was not always clear that the country could give prosperity to the railroads. If a steady stream of working immigrants had been flowing in, such reasoning might

perhaps be good. But Brazil gets few immigrants, and the quality of these few is not of the best; the development of new districts means simply a spreading out of the present resources, not an actual increase of production.

I believe that the mistake of Brazilian railroad schemes is that they do not consider the status of the population. In the northern provinces a large proportion of the poorer people are non-producers; that is, they cultivate only small tracts, and raise enough mandioca and corn for their own use, but almost nothing more. The large plantations are few and scattered; the products, sugar, cotton, hides, etc., are not enough to support a railroad even with the present high freights. In the south, a large portion of the ground is taken up by rich coffee planters, who cultivate only portions of the ground. Now, the utmost yield of coffee is four or five hundred pounds per acre; if a railroad drags one thousand square miles of coffee land, it can carry away no more than 300,000,000 or 400,000,000 pounds of coffee annually, while the same extent of wheat or corn land would produce at least ten times as much freight. Practically, the discrepancy is still greater. The province of São Paulo, with its two thousand miles of railroads, probably does not furnish one-thirtieth of the freight that is supplied by an equal extent of our Western grain-lands. Moreover, the great proportion of the population of coffee districts consists of slaves; their food is furnished by the plantations, and their clothes are few and scanty. To plantation like that of Sr. S., the railroad brings nothing but the machinery and tools, with the furniture of the master's house, and a few bales of cloth for the two, hundred slaves. An equal population in the United States would necessitate shipments of coal, provisions, cloths, and a thousand articles of luxury, all of which would be clear gain to a railroad, and no slight addition to the ingoing freights.

No railroad, which depends for its prosperity on coffee alone, can afford to establish a low freight tariff. Hence, the extent of such a road must be limited; for ultimately a point will be reached from which the freights will be high that practically exportation will be prohibited. Brazilians talk of extending their railroads into Mato Grosso, eight hundred miles from the sea; but to what purpose? Coffee cannot be cultivated there, because it cannot be exported, and there is no inflow of immigrants to establish grain farms, as in our Western states. Let us hope that for the present Brazil should let these central regions alone. She should seek to condense and enrich her coast population; and when new fields are required, there is the Amazonas valley, an inexhaustible garden, with free water communication to the ocean.

## THE CONSULAR QUESTION

It has been our deliberate purpose in our management of this journal to avoid all personal discussions. The differences which may arise between ourselves and other parties fortunately very limited thus far—or the differences which may exist between two parts of our knowledge, can not be supposed to interest a very wide circle of newspaper readers, and the thrusting of such matters upon them, as has been shown more than once in the history of English journalism in Rio de Janeiro, can not be considered otherwise than as an unwarranted offense liberty with their time and attention.

With the subject which engaged our attention in our last issue, however, we felt ourselves fully justified in entering upon personal issues—issues in which the reputation of one man and the self-respect of the whole American community of this city were vitally concerned. The provocation came at the last moment, at a time when there was only the briefest opportunity to denounce the charge as false and to place the blame of the whole shameful transaction just where it belonged; but it is certain that we should have spoken no less plainly had there been more time in which to choose and arrange our words. Fortunately we conversed with the whole history of the case between Consul-General Adamson and his vice-consul and had examined the documents which effectively disposed of this charge of smuggling; more besides, we were fully acquainted with the incidents and causes which had been

well to see it worn exclusively by another. We do not flatter ourselves that our neighbor has taken up this matter without some distinct purpose in view. But, whatever that purpose may be, and however strong may be this league between him and Consul-General Adamson, there can be no possible chance for them to effect their purpose unless they produce proofs of their charges and put an end to their present effort to slander and disgrace everybody who may have excited their antagonism.

vice-consul from his position in the consulate. This decision has received the hearty commendation from the entire American community of this city.

It is interesting to note in this connection that when called upon for proofs, Mr. Adamson was unable to furnish anything further than the mere hearsay evidence of his two confidential clerks, one of whom made a statement privately and left it at the custom house with the view of influencing the minister of finance to investigate the matter and secure the cancellation of Mr. Randall's *exequatur* without the intervention of the American minister. This confidential clerk has since mysteriously disappeared—gone into the interior for his health it is said. This document, even to the signature, is in the consil-general's own hand-writing. It is interesting to note also that Mr. Adamson has endeavored to hasten the downfall of his subordinate by personal visits to the custom house where he first were professedly over the charges made against his vice-consul by "certain slanderous persons" and then offered to prove them by his two clerks, and where lastly he took the remarkable position, when the inspector refused to receive his documents and declined to hold any further communication with him except through the diplomatic representative of the United States, that his position was equal to and independent of the minister, that he had a perfect right to communicate directly with the Brazilian government, and that the inspector must receive his documents.

As to a detailed statement of the case there is neither time nor necessity. Minister Hilliard, as we have said, has declined either to suspend Mr. Randall or to recognize Mr. Adamson's illegal suspension of him, and has dismissed the charge as unfounded; and to this decision Mr. Adamson has reluctantly acquiesced. We are able to say that all the papers relating to the case have been placed before the State department at Washington, the only authority competent to settle the difficulty as it now stands. It is altogether probable that the certificates of the customs inspector, of the mercantile house which dispatched Mr. Randall's baggage through the custom house and paid all the duties assessed, and of the dispatcher who attended to the ship, will be accepted—as conclusive evidence in support of his (Mr. R.'s) explicit denial of the charge. If anything more be needed the protest against Mr. Adamson's conduct and against his malicious and shameful treatment of the American colony of Rio de Janeiro—a protest which was signed by nearly all the American houses of this city—which was forwarded to Washington at the same time, will surely be deemed worthy of respectful consideration. And just here it is worth mentioning for the express benefit of our Hibernian contemporary who is striking about wildly on the Donnybrook tactics, that the "sailor crimps and stablemen" whom he facetiously asserts were the signers of this protest, represent five-sixths of the American capital held in this city. And furthermore, in all these documents he thought insufficient, the sworn statement of an American shipmaster to the effect that he was compelled to pay blackmail to Consul-General Adamson, and the charges against that official for extorting illegal fees, for making false returns, and for slandering business men and private families, which are supported by confirmatory evidence, will quite settle the difficulty as between him and the editor of that city.

And now to our esteemed contemporary, the *Anglo-Brazilian Times*, whose stock of virtue has been so exhaustively drawn upon lately and whose Billinggate vocabulary has been so readily placed at the command of the United States government, as represented in the person of its consil-general! We must be permitted to admit his late though unrequited attachment for American affairs, his conscious virtue which fits him like a lion's skin, his unprecedented magnanimity in not crushing certain offending Americans with mysterious documents, his alarming self-forgetfulness in mistaking this little trouble in the American community for a Donnybrook fair. It is useless, perhaps, to ask what business it is to him, and whether he thinks that he can influence its settlement either here or in Washington. It is useless, perhaps, to add that no one believes that he plays Faust to the consil-general's Mephistopheles out of pure love of the character, but that he loves the scarlet-lined cloak too well to see it worn exclusively by another.

We do not flatter ourselves that our neighbor has taken up this matter without some distinct purpose in view. But, whatever that purpose may be, and however strong may be this league between him and Consul-General Adamson, there can be no possible chance for them to effect their purpose unless they produce proofs of their charges and put an end to their present effort to slander and disgrace everybody who may have excited their antagonism.

## THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 5TH, 1880.

We give in another column an outline of the lamentable events of the past three or four days. As this moment it is impossible to discuss the question soberly and impartially. The streets are patrolled by armed men, the property and personal liberty of law-abiding men are threatened, the people are forbidden to assemble in public places in any number exceeding ten, the business of the city is suffering great losses, efforts are making to collect an unjust tax by arbitrary and illegal measures, every tramway line but one is in a state of demoralization, travel is impeded and life is rendered insecure. More than that, innocent blood has been shed, and its stain is upon the liberal ministry which took the reins of government two years ago to-day with so many fair promises and with so warm a welcome from the people. It is not a fitting realization of those premises that this ministry should terminate its second year with acts and scenes like those around us, nor that it should have stained its record with an outrage so cowardly and so infamous as an outrage upon an unarmed and defenseless mob—and that too without warning. It is an act which will receive the condemnation of the whole civilized world; it is a stain upon the history of Dom Pedro II's reign which can never be washed out; it is an act which will stamp the *written* tax and its author with the infamy of all men through all time. For the minister of finance, and his instrument in the police force who has undertaken to falsify history, there is now but one recourse resignations.

AT THE opening of the Congress of the United States on the 1st ultimo the Secretary of the Treasury recommended in his annual report that should Congress increase the appropriations beyond the treasury estimates, the difference should be met by the restoration of a moderate duty on tea and coffee and by an internal tax on the manufacture of opium. This step is one which we have long anticipated, and we have on several occasions called the attention of the Brazilian government not only to the certainty that the American government will eventually impose a customs tax on coffee, but that the present policy of Brazil will serve to hasten it. The recommendation of Secretary Sherman at this time confirms the position which we have taken, and foretells the early restoration of this tax—probably before the adjournment of this present Congress. The probability of this event is greatly strengthened by the recent changes in the Brazilian tariff, many of which are decidedly pianical to an increase of American trade in this country and to an approximate equalization in the exports and imports which are now so widely separated. In view of the balance against them of nearly five to one, the Americans will not accept kindly a tariff increase of 25 per cent. on flour, 33 1/3 per cent. on plain domestics, 10 per cent. on codfish, from 25 to 35 per cent. on hams, 125 per cent. on canned meats, fish, etc., 25 per cent. on canned vegetables, 25 per cent. on butter, and an increase, more or less, on pine, bleached cottons, woolen goods, boots and shoes, and a long list of articles with which they are striving to extend their trade in Brazil. Besides that, the erratic policy of the Brazilian government toward the American steamship line will serve also to hasten the re-imposition of the coffee tax. As an economic measure this tax has the strongest claims upon the American Congress as it will afford an ample and stable revenue, easily collected, and bearing more equitably and lightly upon the people than many of the customs taxes now imposed. From whatever stand point may be chosen, except that of protection pure and simple, it is impossible to see why sugar should pay import duties and coffee not; and the inconsistency of this exemption is forcing itself upon the American public day by day. While the re-imposition of this tax in the United States would not occasion any immediate disaster to the coffee producers of Brazil it is evident that it will eventually result most injuriously to them. Any considerable increase in the

price of coffee will be direct encouragement to competing coffee-growing countries, some of which are already gaining at a rate which forebodes a keen competition in the near future. To prevent this encouragement the cost of coffee in Brazilian markets must necessarily be reduced, and that, in the face of the financial difficulties of the government, the non-progressive state of cultivation and the impending crisis in labor, is a step which can not easily be taken. The question is one which demands immediate attention from the Brazilian government, and we do not overrate it when we say that it must be met, not on the grounds of a minor and restricted administrative policy, but on the broader and higher grounds of an economic policy which will nourish national prosperity by encouraging international trade.

### UNJUST TAXATION AND ITS RESULTS

In our last issue we gave an abstract of the new tax upon the traveling public—commonly called the *"written tax"*—and commented briefly on its excessiveness, its inequalities, and its illegal and tyrannical regulations. Between the time of its promulgation on the 13th ult. down to the 1st instant, the press of this city were unanimous in their protests against it, and the people were uniting in their efforts to secure its repeal.

On the 28th ult. a mass-meeting of about 5,000 or 6,000 people was held near the palace of São Cristóvão, where Dr. Lopes Trovão, one of the editors of the *Gazeta da Noite*, addressed them against the tax. A commission was appointed to present a popular protest to the Emperor, asking for the repeal of this onerous tax. The commission was then informed that the Emperor would not receive them, and when they started to go to the palace they found the entrance to the grounds closed to them and garrisoned. The people then sat on their return into the city, and when near the old *madatona* a messenger overtook them and announced that the Emperor would receive the commission—it being pretended that his majesty was attending a session of his engineers in physics, and knew nothing of the negotiations, while the people, however, referred to return, and continued on their way into the city.

It should be noted that this mass-meeting was conducted in the most orderly and moderate manner, and that the people indulged in no threats or demonstrations against the Emperor or his government. It should be noted also that the military and police force had largely increased in that part of the city, that a *pátego* (Dr. Félix da Costa), with assistants and a large force of police force (said to be 200) were in the midst of the people all through, and that this force of police did everything they could to provoke the people into some act of violence—going so far as to dance before the people like *cavaleiros*. The moderation of the people under such provocation is worthy of the highest praise.

It is reported that at this time several prominent men, friends of the ministry, went to the minister of finance and urged a repeal of the tax, or at least the arbitrary regulations governing its collection, as the people would surely resist, but Dr. Alfonso Celso not only refused but expressed his feelings toward an over-taxed and insulted people by calling them *heads* (*bastas*).

On the 1st instant the new law went into effect. The police force all over the city was doubled, soldiers were riding to and fro on the street cars, and there was an unusual display of the military in all parts of the city. At noon a second mass-meeting was held in the Largo do Paço, where Dr. Lopes Trovão again addressed the people and advised them not to pay the tax. This meeting also was orderly and avoided every demonstration which could give offence. The trouble, however, had already begun—in various parts of the city resistance was made to the collection of the tax, and the excited people had begun to assume the offensive. Street cars were overturned and broken up, the animals were killed, drivers and conductors were beaten and driven away, and crowds of disorderly persons began to collect in various localities.

About the middle of the afternoon a mob began to destroy the property of the Villa Isabel line in Rua da Uruguaiana—the popular feeling being particularly bitter against this company as its superintendent, Sr. D'Immaculada—a man by the way is a stranger to either principle or scruple—had been most instrumental in securing some of the most obnoxious regulations of the tax.

Several cars of this line and of the Carris Urbaines were overturned across Rua da Uruguaiana and transformed into barricades. The rails and paving-stones were torn up. The whole neighbourhood of this scene was crowded with people, the great mass of whom, however, were simply curious spectators. A large force of infantry was then stationed in the Largo do S. Francisco near the scene of this disturbance, and small detachments were stationed on Rua Ouriço and Sete de Setembro, near the hastily improvised barricades.

Up to half past four, when we left the scene of disturbance, there was no collision between the troops and the people—on the contrary the latter were trying in vain to meet the two detachments by making speeches to them and cheering them. Even the mounted detachments were cheered as they passed through the streets. We passed every where through this crowd of excited people, both in the immediate neighbourhood of Rua da Uruguaiana and in the Largo do S. Francisco, and though there was great excitement and the mob was bent on damaging the Villa Isabel line, we were unable to discover either pistol or knife in the hands of the rioters. It was purely and plainly an unarmed mob. And besides, from all we could discover there was in the thousands of people which filled the streets not over two hundred men who were engaged in riotous acts.

On this occasion, as on the 28th ult., it is charged that the secret police were engaged, *under orders*, in exciting the mob to violence and provoking a conflict with the soldiers. These men were under the orders of the police *pátegos*, Drs. Félix da Costa and Bulhões. If these charges be true, these two officials should be visited with the swift and unpitiful vengeance of an outraged people.

About five o'clock two detachments of infantry were dispatched from Largo do S. Francisco, and entered Rua Uruguaiana to drive out the mob. On this occasion also the charge is made unequivocally by the *Gazeta de Notícias*, "the secret police agents who were the principal rioters, seeing the pacific attitude of the people who received the threatening *cartas* and *avisos* containing *written* tax, threw some paving-stones at the soldiers. The force, without having given the least intimation, fired upon the people who were in the streets and at the windows." The people at once retired leaving several dead and wounded. The dead have been variably placed at from three to seven, all of whom were unarmed, and nearly all of whom were foreigners and spectators. Little is really known about this, however as the military took possession of the ground, removed the bodies at half past ten o'clock night, and secretly buried them until the next day. The *Gazeta da Noite* estimates the wounded at less than thirty.

After this lamentable affair there were no further disorders in the neighborhood of the barricades but large bodies of indignant men remained about the streets until a late hour. The immediate responsibility for the firing has not yet been definitely fixed, some charging it upon the police *pátego*, others upon Dr. D'Immaculada, and others upon the officer in command of the troops in the Largo do S. Francisco—but as the guns of the military were loaded with ball cartridges from the outset and as the means usually employed in other countries to disperse a mob without bloodshed were not resorted to, it is just that the blame should be placed upon those high in authority who sent these soldiers into the public streets prepared to shell them at the first fire. Upon the minister of finance principally lies the blame for, it is wholly to his obstinacy, his overweening confidence, and his influence to have this loss of life. When brought face to face with popular resistance, he made it a personal issue, a *crucifixus*—his hands are stained with innocent blood.

As to the effects of the new tax upon the several tramway lines, a few words are sufficient. Early in the afternoon the Carris Urbaines line was compelled to suspend operations, and by five or six o'clock the only street cars running were those of the Botanical Gardens line. This latter line was not molested in the slightest degree, nor has it lost a single trip up to date; and that part of the city through which it runs has been wholly exempt from all disturbance and the presence of the military. The good result is owing to the uniform course with which passengers are treated by the employees of this line and to the course pursued by them in not expelling passengers for the non-payment of the tax. And yet, we understand that this has collected more *valores* than all the other lines united.

As to the Emperor, nothing was heard of him on the 1st, and on the 2nd he went out to Santa Cruz, thirty miles distant, to visit the new *mausoleum*.

On the 2d inst. the excitement was kept up to a fever pitch and disturbances were of frequent occurrence in various parts of the city. A large force of military were kept under arms in the Largo do S. Francisco and detachments were kept constantly patrolling the streets. Crowds of people gathered in various localities and discussed the events of the previous day, and always with feelings of bitter resentment against the ministry which had caused so cowardly and fatal an outrage on an unarmed populace. On the S. Christovão line a conductor was shot dead for calling on the police to enforce the payment of a tax, and another conductor on the Villa Isabel line was badly cut for a similar reason. On the Curves an attempt was made to burn a large gun store, but the prompt arrival of the military and fire engines checked the designs of the populace.

On the 3rd the excitement was a little more subdued, but there were frequent disturbances on the streets. In reality, however, this phase of the matter was more dangerous as was attested by the prompt use of the knife. The popular outbreak was apparently suppressed, but not the deadly purpose of the more desperate characters who infest this city, for checking a comparatively peaceful uprising of the people by bloodshed and armed interference with the rights of public assembly and discussion, the ministry has simply turned loose an element in the streets a thousand times more deadly and dangerous—an element which party chiefs are sometimes accustomed to use, and to which even the minister of finance is not a stranger.

On the afternoon of the 3d a committee from the people visited the minister of war, and in a very temperate and dignified address demanded the suspension of the tax or at least its obnoxious regulations. If the government could not accede to this, they demanded the resignation of the minister of finance, Dr. Alfonso Celso. To all these demands the ministry returned an unqualified refusal and affirmed its purpose to enforce the tax at all costs. It did not seem to occur to them that several hundreds of contos of damage had already been caused to all the tramway lines but one, that innocent blood had been shed, that business was unsettled, and that the city was practically under military law—the dignity of the ministry would not permit its withdrawal from an unjust and untenable position.

On the afternoon of the 3d a meeting of deputies and senators was held at the residence of Senator Silveira da Motta to discuss the situation and to devise some method to check the mad career of the ministry as well as the excesses of the riotous elements of the populace. The private residence was as ever surrounded by the military and the deliberations of some of the ablest and most judicial men of the empire were held under the menace of the bayonet. Several brief addresses were made in

which decided grounds were taken against the arbitrary course of the ministry in the enforcement of the *written* tax and against its despotism assaults upon the liberties of the people. The proceedings of the meeting were published as a protest and were signed by Senators Octaviano, Silveira da Motta and Nunes Gonçalves, and Deputies Saldanha Marinho, Joaquim Nalisco, Leônio de Carvalho, Costa Azevedo and Baptista Pereira.

As we go to press (Jan. 4th) the city is still under guard, and the position remains unaltered. There are no indications that the government will give way, the Emperor is invisible and silent, and there is but slight movement in the streets because of jail. The *Jornal do Commercio*, *Crusado* and *Gazeta de Notícias* have issued a manifesto commanding the people to abstain from riotous demonstrations and promising to use all pacific means to secure the suspension of the obnoxious tax. The *Gazeta da Noite* has been summarily suspended and its editor, Dr. Lopes Trovão, is under arrest. The chief of police has prohibited all public gatherings, and the 1st *pátego*, Dr. Bulhões, has made an official report of the conflict on New Year's day in which he strains every effort to lay the blame on the people and Dr. Lopes Trovão, and then gives a list of a few policemen and soldiers who received slight wounds from sticks, stones and bottles. He mentions incidentally that three dead bodies were found, but *omits to mention that the soldiers fired upon unarmed crowd without any warning whatever*. He complains of the conduct of the soldiers, of the police, and of the secret police agents—and charges the editors of the *Gazeta de Notícias* with criminal proceedings. As a public document and matter of history, it is shamefully false and cowardly.

It is uncertain whether the anger has passed. The people are so thoroughly exasperated that an outbreak may be expected at any moment. It may yet be sent by the liberal ministry of the 5th of January, particularly of that member of it who presides over the finances of the empire, that it has precipitated a revolution.

### RAILROAD NOTES.

—For the month of November the receipts of the Barútar railway were 22,205\$98; expenses, 11,516\$205; balance, 10,779\$678.

—Ninety-six kilometers of the Sobral railway, Curitiba, is reported ready for the rails.

—The receipts of the *"Réde do S. Francisco"* railway for November were 113,151\$950, and the expenses 56,506\$522.

—The receipts of the *"Réde Olinda Beberibe"* railway for November were 16,872\$420; balance 5,439\$466.

—The contract with the provincial government of São Paulo for the extension of the Sorocabana railway from Bauruca to Botuva was signed on the 29th ult. The extension is 22 kilometers long, and its terminus is only two kilometers from a reported coal field. When built the line will be within 14 kilometers of Tietê. In place of granting a guarantee of seven per cent. interest on this extension, the provincial government concedes permission to the line to elevate its charges to a figure necessary to secure an equivalent return.

—The Mogiana railway of the provinces of São Paulo is one of the most ably managed and prosperous roads in Brazil. The trunk line, from its intersection with the *"Panamá"* at Campinas to Cass. Branca, a length of 173 kilometers, runs through a rich and promising coffee region; and the branch from Jaguari to Apurí, 30 kilometers, opens up a fruitful agricultural country. The company has a guarantee from the provincial government of 7 per cent. on a capital of 5,500,000\$—which has taken advantage of only 5,000,000\$. The nominal value of its shares is 200\$, but the last sale realized 225\$. The economy of management is due to the able administration of Dr. M. C. Meneses, its present superintendent.

—It is an old belief among good folks that as the new year is begun so will it continue and end. We hope that the year 1880 in Rio de Janeiro will prove an exception. The police and military were uniformly plentiful on New Year's day.

—It was announced on the 30th ult. that the inspector of customs had extended the time for dispatching goods in his department to four o'clock, p. m., and that the discharge of goods from vessels was extended to seven o'clock, p. m.

—The minister of agriculture has communicated to the presidents of Espírito Santo, São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catharina and Rio Grande do Sul, that the government wishes a full report on the character and expenses of the public service entitled "public lands and colonization" early in January.

—The minister of finance declared last week that permission could not be granted for the dispatch of all goods arriving at this port up to the close of the 31st ult. at the old tariff rates. Only such goods as were discharged from the vessels and have entered upon the customary formalities for dispatch will be allowed the benefit of the old tariff.

—A party of about 100 disorderly persons paraded the streets of Rio on the night of the 28th ult. After occasioning disturbances in various quarters the party finally attacked a street car in Rua da Constituição, much to the terror of the passengers. Two or three of them were arrested, and one policeman was hit with the imprint of a club on him.

—Some residents of Rua da Misericórdia were recently greatly alarmed by subterranean noises in the Morro do Castelo. An inquiry developed the fact that the noises were made by a company building a concession for mining into the hill. The purpose, we presume, is the discovery of some of those fabulous treasures said to be buried there by the monks.

—On the 26th inst. a slave named Caetano presented himself to the police authorities and complained of brutal treatment at the hands of his master. He said that he had been whipped every day and his body bore the marks of more than one brutal flogging. His master, José Justino da Silveira Machado, explained the master by charging the slave with attempting to kill his mistress.

—Dr. Miguel Estácio Martins de Andrade, deputy from Minas Gerais, has given his salary for the extraordinary session of the General Assembly, amounting to some 700\$, to the hospital of the mendicants' asylum. That is just what is wanted. We understand that others will follow this good example. We believe that as soon as there is a balance beyond the amount sufficient to support the asylum officials, a few beggars will be withdrawn from the streets.

—During the month of November the total quantity of water received from the seven sources of Carteria, Laranjeiras, Maracanã, Andrade-Grande, Rio das Flores, Rio Calheiros and Macacos was 10,635,886 gallons, of which 10,996,720 gallons were consumed and the rest remained in store. In a rough estimate the average consumption was a little less than twelve gallons *per capita*, taking the population of the districts supplied at 300,000 and making no allowances for water consumed in steam engines, watering street, fire purposes, etc., etc.

recently established unlawfully held as a his freedom, but to which he should have redress for his imprisonment. It is, we think, the test of the justice of this principle, and it is to be hoped that the expression of the sympathy with which her determination to enforce it must be regarded by all right-thinking men. Such a decision is evidently calculated to strike a blow at the institution of slavery in Cuba as well as Brazil; for in both countries many negroes are held as slaves who, under any reasonable interpretation even of the existing law, would be entitled to their freedom.—*European Mail*, Nov. 24.

### LOCAL NOTES

—The *Gazeta da Noite* informs the police that three of the deported procurers have made their appearance again in this city.

—During the month of November there were five registers granted to vessels by the secretary of the bureau of commerce.

—By decree 7,566, of the 13th ult., the Marine Insurance Company is authorized to establish agencies in Macau and Santos.

—One of the conspicuous features of the mass-meeting in Palace square on the 1st instant was the efforts of the larger part of the people to attend without appearing to do so.

—The business of the Brazil Mail Steamship Line is reported to be very good, and the expediency of having semi-monthly sailings from New York is now under consideration.—*The Greco*, Nov. 15.

—The trade of the United States with Brazil during the year ending June 30, 1879, according to the Bureau of Statistics, was 8,194,370 in exports, and \$38,375,441 in imports, gold value.

—By an imperial letter of the 27th ult., Albert S. Goodall, Esq., president of the American Bank Note Company, was nominated a Chevalier of the Order of the Rose.

—The temperature of this city during the month of November, as recorded at the observatory on Morro do Castello was as follows: Highest, 91.04° Fahr.; lowest, 51.34°, average, 72.83°. Total rainfall, 4 inches.

—The people should not forget the many outspoken course of the *Gazeta de Notícias* and the *Gazeta da Noite* in opposition to the ill-omened *written* tax and in condemnation of the arbitrary measures of the ministry in force.

—The daily ration allowance for the next six months has been fixed at the following figures: for infantry privates in the capital 480 réis, in Campinhas and Campo Grande 600 réis, and in the fortresses, and at Santa Cruz 520 réis.

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## THE RIO NEWS.

—By an advertisement of the 22nd ult. the bureau of public works invites sealed tenders for the Santos harbor improvements, in conformity with the surveys and plans of Col. W. Milner Roberts. Proposals will be received up to the 31st inst. The total estimated expenditures are £1,741,376.585\$.

—It is announced that the minister of war has reduced the ration allowance of soldiers one ration a day. As this allowance is based upon the market prices of provisions, and as these prices are now going up, it is difficult to understand just why the reduction is made. We notice however that an increase has been made in the number of gendarmes who escort the minister's carriage through the streets. These two instances are admirable illustrations of how it is done.

—During the thunder-storm of the 27th inst., a house was struck by lightning in Rue Senator Euzebio. The electricity entered the basement of the building where it knocked over a member of the family, then it danced through several rooms cutting the cords of a child's hammock on the way and letting the child drop to the ground, then it investigated a gas meter, and then made its exit through the kitchen where it killed several hens. Fortunately no one suffered any injury from this disorderly electrical intrusion but the hens.

—The ministerial organ, the *Diarlo Oficial*, of the 2nd instant informs its readers that all pacific means were employed on the 1st instant to disperse the rioters, that the troops did not fire a shot but fired upon by revolutionaries, and that only a few slight wounds were caused by their firing into the crowd. In view of the fact that several men were killed and a large number wounded, that the troops fired upon the people without warning, and that the nearest approach to pacific measures was the movement of infantry and cavalry through the streets, this remarkable attempt of the *Diarlo* to defend a wanton outrage serves only to render it all the more shameful and indefensible.

—According to law No. 2,454, passed by the last provincial assembly and signed by the president of this province on the 19th ult., provisions are made for burial in public and private cemeteries in the municipality of Valencia. It is stipulated, however, that "the municipal council shall designate in the public cemeteries the distinct place for the interment of non catholics and suicides." We have seen important questions handled a little more delicately than this, and a little more in accordance with the advanced civilization of the day. It is to be hoped that the Protestant emigrant will consider this inducement for coming to a country where death even does not level distinctions, and where his body is thrust aside as a thing accursed.

—New Year's day was characterized by an unusual number of soldiers travelling about on the street-car lines—probably to overawe the rebellious taxpayers. It did not follow, however, that the soldier paid his fare and his *vistazo* tax like ordinary men. Possibly the cabinet imposes the same soldier on the tramway companies as a new tax.

—We would advise every traveler to pin his coat on the breast of his coat. It will then serve as a revenue stamp and will show a proper submission to the minister of finance. We are sorry that the minister omitted to illustrate this instrument of torture with his picture, as it seems to have been designed more as an aggravation, and not as a means of forcing itself and a few more *fuscais* upon unwilling compatriotes, than as a source of revenue.

—With the December number of the *Novo Mundo* the editor announces the discontinuance of that journal. The cause of this step the editor states to be the imposition of an exorbitant duty on imported printed matter. At the time of the writing of this announcement, it could hardly have been known in New York that the duties on printed matter of the class under which the *Novo Mundo* falls was not to be changed, though on all other work the duties were raised extremely. Had the government given us the usual six months notice before putting the new tariff into operation, it is possible this precipitate step would not have been taken, although it is a great cost of producing the journal in New York made it almost a losing enterprise. The agent here brought such edition entire from the publishers at a price fixed in Brazilian currency, and the low rate of exchange of the past year added to the loss. Brazil suffers a loss that will not soon be made up, and the subscribers will greatly miss a welcome visitor.

## COMMERCIAL

January 4th, 1880.

Par value of the Brazilian mil reis (\$100), gold, 27 d.  
do do do in U.S. 1.  
coin at \$4.84 per £, sig. 54.45 cents.  
do £1, sig. in Brazilian gold, \$8399.  
Bank rate of exchange on London to-day... 234 d.  
Present value of the Brazilian mil reis (paper)... 830 reis gold.  
do do do in U.S. 1.  
coin at \$4.81 per £, sig. 46.60 cents.  
Value of \$1.00 (\$4.81 per £, sig.) in Brazilian  
currency (paper)... \$1.05  
Value of £1 sterling... " " 10378

## EXCHANGE.

December 23.—The market remains firm at the rates adopted by the banks on the 13th inst.

Dec. 24.—Rates on London to-day advanced 2d. and we have banking rates 2d. and 3d. on Paris £400 and 444 rs. per franc. Medium rates on London 2d. & 3d. on Paris 444 rs. *Sociedade* held at 183000 with 10378 offered.

Dec. 25.—Market firm at 2d. 3d. on London.

Dec. 27.—Banking rates on London remain at 2d. 3d. Market firm with few transactions. Sovereign held at 103800 with 10378 offered.

Dec. 29.—Market firm with upward tendency but few transactions at 2d. 3d. 2d. 3d. *Sociedade* 10378.

Dec. 30.—Rates same as yesterday with but little change.

Dec. 31.—Banking rates on London 2d. 3d. with few transactions mercantile 2d. 3d. and 2d. 7/8. Sovereign held at 103800 with 10378 offered.

Jan. 4.—Few transactions on London at 2d. 3d. banking rates on Paris 400 rs. per franc

## MOVEMENT OF THE STOCK MARKET FROM DECEMBER 1st AND TO DEC. 31st INCLUSIVE.

SHARES	COMPANY	PRICE
22,000	Banco Industrial	215 000
70,000	Rural	185 000
52,000	do Comercio	175 000
50,000	Lata, Papel, Banco Previdencia	175 000
10,000	do Ferro e Mineração	155 000
50,000	Ferro e Carvão Mineiro	155 000
10,000	do Fazenda Pernambuco	155 000
10,000	Leopoldina RR	155 000
50,000	Olaria	155 000
10,000	do Fazenda de São Paulo	155 000
5,000	Sovereign	10 800
500	" "	10 800

## MARKET REPORT

Rio de Janeiro, January 3d, 1880.

Coffee.—After our report on the 2d ult., our market remained stable until the 27th, when sales were effected sufficiently large to establish the following quotation per kilo:

Superior	\$3900	—\$3800
Good first	\$3800	—\$3700
Regular first	\$3700	—\$3600
Ordinary first	\$3600	—\$3500
Good second	\$3500	—\$3400
Ordinary second	\$3400	—\$3300

which compared with previous official quotations, showed a reduction of 50 to 80 reis per kilo on the lower ones.

Since then, however, the unfavorable advice from surrounding countries have prevented exporters from freely entering the market where as dealers, on the strength of the great decrease in the receipts, have again become determined to hold their stock at above figures and to make further reductions.

The market, therefore, remains extremely quiet with very little business doing.

The total sales since 2d ult. amount to bags, viz:

500 bags	for United States
3,160 " " " Cape of Good Hope	3,160 " " "
940 " " " Elsewhere	940 " " "

Total... 5,000 bags.

The total sales for the month since the 4th ult. amount to 10,464 bags, viz:

5,640 bags	for United States
3,190 " " " Europe	3,190 " " "
2,070 " " " Cape of Good Hope	2,070 " " "

Total... 10,464 bags.

Receipts have decreased considerably, having averaged about 5,000 bags per day for the last seven days. The daily average for the month of December has been 3,830 bags against 9,050 receipts at Rio since the 1st of July amount to 26,950 bags against 20,233,995 bags in the month of July.

The clearances in the month of December were 18,535 bags, viz:

12,741 bags for U.S.—against 17,140 bags in Dec. 1878.
50,950 " Europe 163 700 " " "
5,620 " C. of Good Hope 8,700 " " "
5,172 " " " River Plate 5,715 " " "

18,435 total bags. Stock is estimated today at 35,000 bags.

Total clearance of coffee from Rio during the year 1879, 1878 and 1877.

DESTINATION	1879	1878	1877
Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
UNITED STATES	1,062 666	966 882	799 115
Bahamas	46,932	49,260	47,155
Roads Roads & Co.	35,636	49,499	91,036
Richmond	2,000	2,000	2,000
Montgomery	2,000	12,456	12,456
Mobile	2,345	30,910	38,100
New Orleans	200,938	100,000	195,334
St. Thomas T.O.	24,870	24,870	24,870
Total...	247,482	63,382	1,637,633

Stocks held by the principal coffee companies, viz:

NAME	CAPITAL	SHARES	ISSUED
Cape of Good Hope	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
River Plate	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
London & South Africa	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Argentina	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Portuguese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & British	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & French	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & German	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Italian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Spanish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Swiss	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Turkish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Venetian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Welsh	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & West Indian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Portuguese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Dutch	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Belgian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Greek	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Japanese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Russian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Turkish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & French	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & German	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Italian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Spanish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Portuguese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Dutch	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Belgian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Japanese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Russian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Turkish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & French	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & German	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Italian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Spanish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Portuguese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Dutch	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Belgian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Japanese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Russian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Turkish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & French	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & German	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Italian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Spanish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Portuguese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Dutch	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Belgian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Japanese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Russian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Turkish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & French	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & German	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Italian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Spanish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Portuguese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Dutch	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Belgian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Japanese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Russian	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Turkish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & French	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & German	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
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U.S. & Turkish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & Chinese	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
U.S. & French	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,00

## THE RIO NEWS

## PROVINCIAL NOTES

The number of slaves exported from Ceará in November was 129.  
The receipts of the Pará custom house for November were \$68,316-\$594.  
Copious rains are reported from nearly all the northern provinces.  
Sr. Jerônimo José Tavares Sohrinholo has been appointed United States consular agent at Maranhão.  
The Rio Grande papers are advising caution in accepting the new 50¢ treasury notes, because of counterfeits.

The provincial secondary elections in Piauí on the 9th ult. resulted generally in favor of the liberals.

The number of refugees along the sea shore in Rio Grande do Norte is said to be steadily diminishing because of the recent rains in the interior.

The Reforma of Porto Alegre, says that the recent drought in the Argentine Republic caused the death of 191,550 head of cattle.

The agent of the Amazon navigation company at Manaus has connected his house with the office of the company by a telephone line.

The treasury agent now examining into the affairs of the Maranhão custom house, is said to have discovered grave irregularities.

The *Gazeta de Porto Alegre* is informed that neither ex-minister Silveira Martins nor Visconde da Pelotas will be chosen senator from Rio Grande do Sul.

A fazendeiro residing near Campinas, S. Paulo, informs the *Província de São Paulo* that he employs about 50 Ceará refugees and that they have been well behaved, industrious and intelligent.

We learn from the *Gazeta de Porto Alegre* of the 11th ult. that Sr. João Ferreira Pinto had just received two balls and two cows of some blooded English stock.

The *Carroio Mercantil* of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, notes the arrival of typhologists who advocate the renewal of the lately-mentioned classification of rattle adopted by the butchers association.

On the 14th ult. the machinery of the new central sugar mill at Bon Jardim, Bahia, was formally examined and tested. According to the report everything worked satisfactorily. The machinery was built by the Five-Lille company.

We learn from São Paulo papers that the "Panista" railway company is making a preliminary survey of a branch from S. Carlos do Pinhal to Brás, Dous Corregos and Jabil. It is said that this line will pass through a rich coffee region.

It is interesting to note that the vicar of the Pelotas parish, Rio Grande do Sul, has drawn a premium of 7.50¢ in the provincial lottery. When priests engage in so vicious a practice as investing in lotteries what can we expect from the priests?

The receipts of the Pelotas custom house for November were \$5,278-\$898, as against \$7,980-\$134 for the same month of last year. The receipts at the collectors' office for the same month were 30,995-\$54.

According to late news from the upper Amazon it is reported that a man named Antonio José de Aguiar was killed by the Jupinxas Indians while making them presents at Curucá. The news dates from Moura, on the 16th of November.

The provincial assembly of Espírito Santo has authorized the construction of a loan of 300,000\$ for the settlement of the passive debt of the province and in aid of the demands of agriculture and commerce. It looks a little like robbing Peter to pay Paul.

According to the *Arxila* of Rio Grande, of the 17th ult., 3,000 head of cattle had arrived at the neighboring slaughter-houses of Pelotas up to that date. One drove of 287 head of regular size and weight, were offered for sale and were rated at \$78 and \$88 by the butchers commission. These rates were refused and the herd was killed on private account.

José de Antônio da Silva lived quietly in the jail at Casa Branca, São Paulo, until the 17th ult. On that day a jury pronounced him guilty. That broke the charm of living at the public expense, so on the following forenoon he broke down the door of his boarding house, walked by the sleeping veteran who is supposed to guard the institution, and escaped.

An association has been organized at Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, for the introduction of 20,000 colonists into that province. If this association would undertake the secure full civil, political and religious rights for immigrants its chances of attaining the desired addition to its population would be much better. At present the prospects that Brazil will get any large number of the best and most intelligent classes of immigrants are very slight - as they deserve to be.

The *Carroio Mercantil* of São Paulo, of Dec. 25th, prints the following communication which it credits to a reliable planter: I can guarantee the *Carroio* that notwithstanding the fact that there are a good many new plantations, the next coffee crop will be one of the smallest made in São Paulo for some time. So far none of the plants of a certain age are well filled; only those under five years of age being yellowed. The blossoming was about as usual, but for some reason the flowers fell and the crop will be small. We can also guarantee that much more than half of the last crops have already been sent in. Under these circumstances, and in view of the enormous deposits in the markets of Rio and Santos which reach 600,000 bags, it would be an immense advantage and save profit if the planters would stop their shipments entirely. In this way they may look to their interests which will suffer an inevitable injury if the Santos market continues to be gorged with coffee. The question is a serious one, and effects large interests. But one thing can save us, and that is the suspension of shipments for the next two months.

The customs receipts for the province of Rio Grande do Norte during the fiscal year 1878-79 were \$4,091-\$332.

The contract for the construction of the S. Paulo water works has been awarded to Messrs. Benet, Stevens & Benet of this city.

It is said that the *City of Pará* experienced great difficulty crossing the Bragança shoals on her last departure from Pará for New York.

The custom house receipts at Manaus, province of Amazonas, for November were \$23,529-\$466; and of the provincial collector's office \$13,627-\$959.

The manager of The London and Brazilian Bank has sold the well-known estate - *Fazenda Anguera* - in S. Paulo, to Sr. Manoel Proençal for the sum of \$50,000.

Complaints are made of an excessive number of *negrarias* in some localities of this province which are over-running the plantations and destroying crops. The manilla fields are said to be suffering most.

The receipts of the "Natalé e Campos" rail-way during the month of November were \$15,223-\$350, as against \$5,921-\$386 for the same month last year. The books show the transportation of 2,451 passengers, 37,5 tons of baggage, 2,701.3 tons of coffee, 1,709 tons of sugar, and 1,370.2 tons of merchandise.

A revolt took place on board the national steamer *Rio Grande*, which sailed from this port for the southern provinces on the 28th ult. with a detachment of soldiers for Rio Grande do Sul. The steamer arrived at Santos on the 30th where application was made to the police authorities for assistance. The mutineers were put in irons.

The *Jardim Botânico* in S. Paulo is evidently managed with a view to the greatest enjoyment of the greatest number. On Christmas night - one of the hottest of the season - upwards of two thousand people listened to the music of several bands, promenaded under the head paths, and enjoyed the ices and refreshments of attentive caterers until nearly midnight.

The Rev. G. Nash Morton, the founder and for many years the director of the Collegio International at Campinas, is about to open an institution for a higher education in São Paulo. For many reasons this is to be commended.

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